

# News Release



U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Public Affairs  
Boston, Massachusetts

WOMEN'S BUREAU

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For Immediate Release  
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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS \$927,000 TO PROMOTE WOMEN IN  
APPRENTICESHIP AND NONTRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS  
PROGRAMS IN MASSACHUSETTS & VERMONT TO SHARE OVER \$153,000**

Women entering nontraditional occupations will benefit from \$927,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grants will go to organizations that will help employers and unions establish apprenticeship programs, recruit women and help overcome barriers to women in nontraditional jobs. **Two New England programs, one in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and one in Barre, Vermont, will share grant funds totaling \$153,523.**

"Apprenticeship is a great way for women to learn a trade that pays well and nontraditional jobs provide women the opportunity to enhance their bottom line," Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman said.

Director of the department's Women's Bureau, Irasema T. Garza, praised the program as one that "will help employers and labor unions establish apprenticeships and recruit women into nontraditional jobs that provide good pay and benefits."

Under this initiative, 12 community-based organizations are receiving grants to provide on-site technical assistance to employers and labor unions to help them develop strategies to increase the employment of women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations.

The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grantees are: **Women in the Building Trades, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Northern New England Tradeswomen, Barre, Vt.**; Women Venture, Saint Paul, Minn.; Hard Hatted Women, Cleveland; Women's Opportunity and Resource Development Center, Missoula, Mont.; Nontraditional Employment for Women, New York City; Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., Portland; YWCA, Omaha, Neb.; Chicago Women in the Trades; Pennsylvania Women Work!, Pittsburgh; West Virginia Women Work!, Auburn, W.Va.; and Resource Center for Women, Largo, Fla.

The Women's Bureau administers the grants jointly with the Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services. "We are committed to increasing the role of women in apprenticeship, which is an important building block for moving into high wage, high growth occupations," said Anthony Swoope, who heads the apprenticeship office.

(more)



NOTE TO EDITORS:       Following are summary descriptions of the Massachusetts and Vermont programs.

GRANTEE:               **Women in the Building Trades**  
                              **12 Southern Ave.**  
                              **Dorchester, MA 02124**

CONTACT:               Maura Russell  
PHONE:                 617-929-0433

GRANT AMOUNT:       **\$75,796.00**

SUMMARY:              During the 2000-2001 WANTO grant program, Women in the Building Trades will expand its services to include specific needs of disabled women. Through collaboration with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, job accommodation strategies will be developed to facilitate disabled women's entry and retention into nontraditional employment. Program goals include providing technical assistance to 10 companies, unions and agencies; providing outreach and recruitment information to 200 women; and referring 45 women to either construction (pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship) positions or other nontraditional occupations.

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GRANTEE:               **Northern New England Tradeswomen**  
                              **189 North Main Street, No. 9**  
                              **Barre, VT 05641**

CONTACT:               Tiffany Blumle  
PHONE:                 802-476-4040

GRANT AMOUNT:       **\$77,727.00**

SUMMARY:              Northern New England Tradeswomen (NNETW) will be working with 31 Vermont employers to help prepare them for the successful recruitment, training and retention of women, and women with disabilities, in apprenticeable positions in the skilled trades. The goal is to provide on-site and in-depth customized technical assistance to 11 employers and to provide technical assistance to 20 additional employers through open enrollment workshops in collaboration with the State Apprenticeship Council. NNETW will also design a leadership development workshop for women working in the skilled trades and other related positions in the construction industry.

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